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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 36 | Min 22 | Humidity 69% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 73,651 | Nifty 22,326 | Gold 67,310 | Silver 75,900 | Dollar 83.40 | Euro 90.12 | GBP 105.29

CITY / PAGE 2

CHILL VIBES

Ice lollies, cool treats for zoo animals

CITY / PAGE 3

GRIM TIME

Crime against women on rise in state

Bus shelter used by thousands of people removed on pretext of redesigning and developing junction

BUST SHELTER

Passengers compelled to wait at shops due to scorching heat

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities evinced a keen interest to spend more than Rs 1 crore for demolishing the concrete statue of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and install a brand new bronze statue at Subhash Nagar Junction aka Central Junction.

While some people said the BBMP wanted to impress the Congress government which assumed office in May 2023, a few were of the view the installation of the bronze statue was part of the junction development.

Unfortunately, the BBMP traffic engineering cell removed a bus shelter near the junction on the pretext of redesigning and developing the junction. The bus shelter was being used by thousands of people who board BMTC buses to proceed towards Rajajinagar, Malleswaram, Yeshwantpur and other areas.

The lack of the much-needed bus shelter now leaves those awaiting buses out in the summer heat. Some of them are compelled to wait at nearby shops to protect themselves from the scorching sun. Moreover, it will be difficult for them to wait for the BMTC buses during the monsoon if the BBMP traffic engineering cell fails to construct a bus shelter at this junction.

"I am not against the BBMP spending a lot of money for junction development and replacing the concrete statue of Rajiv Gandhi with a bronze statue but it is not fair for the BBMP authorities to remove the bus shelter in the name of beautification of the junction. It is very tough to wait for the BMTC bus under the scorching sun," said Keshava, a BMTC commuter.

Criticising the BBMP for demolishing the existing bus

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Lack of bus shelters will discourage people from commuting by BMTC buses
– Vinay Srinivasa, Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike

Intent to marry 'is personal'

Notice of intent to marry 'discriminatory and arbitrary', says lawyers' association

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All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ) has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting the prohibition of the prevailing practice of uploading 'notices of intended marriage' under Special Marriage Act in the website of the registration department.

While acknowledging that the procedure is being followed as per Section 6 of the Special Marriage Act, the association said that it was violative of the fundamental rights of the adults concerned to privacy and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

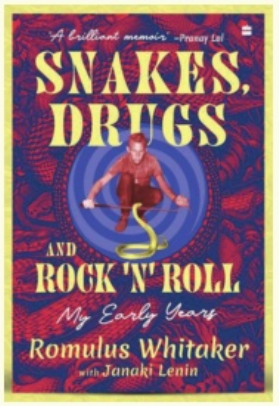
The letter deemed the requirement "discriminatory and arbitrary" while noting that the Hindu Marriage Act or other personal laws dealing with marriages do not have such a requirement, also making it violative of the equality doctrine enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution.

The letter noted that Justice DY Chandrachud in his concurring judgment in Shafin Jahan Vs. Ashokan K.M. & Ors. [(2018)16 SCC 368] popularly known as the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 A delightful read



Join in for the launch of 'Snakes, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll' by Romulus Whitaker with Janaki Lenin, followed by a conversation with Suhel Quader. Whitaker is an American-born Indian herpetologist and a legend in wildlife conservation who received the Padma Shri award in 2018 from the Government of India. Lenin has set up Draco Films, a wildlife film production company, with Rom Whitaker and also ran a book publishing company, Draco Books, for two decades. **When: March 29, 6 pm; Where: Champaca Bookstore**

02 Ode to remember

Witness an attempt to clean the dust off the old diary, feel the now yellowed pages, and smell the air that once was new with 'Ghazal Wali Diary,' a Ghazal music performance by Muqtalif at Atta Galatta. Muqtalif, which means different, is formed by Shreyas, Dheeraj Bannerjea, and Aparupa, who have found a way to remember some musicians and songs that mustn't gather dust on the webpages.

These are songs that are meant to celebrate the heartaches, the bad decisions, and the glorious mistakes that now can't be undone.
When: March 30, 5 pm; Where: Atta Galatta

Heat is on, but animals are chilling out at zoo

Sprinklers, solar pumps and new diet for animals at Bannerghatta Biological Park

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Zoo animals enjoying the iced lollipops at Bannergatta Biological Park

Amid soaring temperatures and depleting groundwater tables, the authorities at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) are leaving no stone unturned in keeping their animals cool. From providing chilled food treats and vegetable ice lollies to installing sprinklers, water puddles, and mud wallows in animals' enclosures, authorities have come up with various summer enrichment programmes for park inhabitants to survive the sizzling weather.

"We have installed water sprinklers in every enclosure that are being used to spray water on animals to help them regulate their body temperature. Looking at the soaring mercury, we are also making sure that water bodies inside enclosures are always full. As part of our regular summer enrichment programme, we are providing ice lollipops made up of fruits and vegetables. We use a species-specific food chart and convert food items into ice lollies. Sometimes whole fruit is frozen and given to different sets of animals over the day to keep them cool," said Aishwarya, a biologist at BBP.

Owing to Bengaluru's unusual heat this summer, BBP authorities have introduced tender coconut to the menu list for some animals. "This is the first time we are giving tender coconut to the inmates. We have recently introduced it to bears and plan to give it to other animals too if the need arises. It will not only keep them cool but also active. The bears have been drinking the water, eating the sap, but playing with the shells for hours, exhibiting the natural behaviour of foraging," added Aishwarya.

The park will soon have two more solar pumps on the campus to ensure water holes are filled to the brim for free-ranging animals too. "We have installed one solar pump so far to fill the waterhole. However, we will be installing two more by the end of April to pump out water for various animals, including elephants. We have 26 elephants, and thus we feel the need for more pumps. We have a safari with free-ranging animals who prefer these waterholes," said AV Surya Sen, deputy conservator of forests and executive director of BBP.

Rapid depletion of water sources

BBP officials informed BM that although there is no water scarcity on the campus currently, water sources, including the groundwater table, are depleting at a faster rate. "We might soon be staring at water scarcity inside the park. BBP does not have a BWSSB water supply, and we depend on rainwater and groundwater to fulfill our needs. Apart from groundwater, we have a network of small tanks fed by rainwater, and we use this surface water as drinking water for the animals. If it doesn't rain soon, we will be facing water scarcity," said Sen."Keeping animals well hydrated is our priority. On days of water shortages, we are ensuring drinking water availability by not watering plants. If the situation does not improve, we will have to bring in tanker water. With the holiday season starting, we expected our needs to go up too," added Sen.

Additionally, BBP is creating 15 shelters with foggers to help visitors beat the heat this summer season.

BM Shoppers' Avenue
BangaloreMirror

Go vocal for local mates!

In all of their manifestations, art and craft have always been and will always be essential components of our culture. India is home to a vast and highly skilled community of craftspeople in their respective fields. They do more for the community than just take beautiful pictures, which is why we should continue to support them. A great deal of artists are devoted to utilising their work to improve the quality of life in their communities. Being #VocalForLocal is one way to make sure these experts receive the support and recognition they so well deserve. If you're wondering how to go about doing it on a personal level, you can follow these options.

Supporting the community of local craftsmen on social media is a great way to harness the power of this platform, which can be quite effective when used appropriately. Share anything you see online that you enjoy that is happening in your area, and let your followers know where to buy it.

Big or small, showing up to every event can have an impact, as an event with less footfall might never be held again. Make it a point to attend the events that interest you. It's great if you want to purchase something, but even just coming to the event and bringing attention to it has a greater influence than you might imagine. Contribute to charities and organisations that support artists: In the art world, funding can be a significant problem, so if you can, think about donating. This could be the best thing you can give in return for their hard work.

Don't limit yourself to these options; explore more and engage with your culture; use it, wear it, and just flaunt it! **— Femina**

Grim time: Spike in crime against women

CRIME FILES

1,500 crimes against women in Jan in K'taka; over 3 rapes reported every 2 days

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Karnataka has recorded more than 1,500 crimes against women in just a month. According to the report by the Karnataka State Police, a total of 1,596 cases were reported for crimes against women in January.

The state recorded more than three rape cases every two days. As many as 50 rape cases were reported in a month, where one was custodial rape, two were gang rapes, and the other 47 were classified as 'other cases of rape'.

The number of rape cases have gone up when compared to January of 2023.

During the corresponding month of the previous year, the state had recorded 29 rape cases, which has gone up by 72 percent.

"As many as 50 cases of rape have been reported during the month as against 57 cases in the previous month and 29 cases in the corresponding month of previous year. Six cases of dowry death have been reported during the current month, as against six cases in the previous month and seven in the corresponding month of previous year," states the police report.

As many as 523 cases were also reported for outraging modesty (Molestation) (sec.354 IPC).

Ten cases were reported for kidnapping and abduction of women (Sec.366 IPC), six for insulting modesty (Eve-Teasing) (Sec.294 & 509 IPC if the victim is a woman), and nine for offenses against public servants (Sec.182-188- 333-353 IPC).

The state also recorded 237 cases of cruelty by husband or relatives of the husband (Sec.498-A IPC).

One case was reported for murder for dowry - by other means (Sec.302 IPC); 30 cases were reported for murder for other reasons, and seven for attempted murder for dowry by other means (Sec.307 IPC); 11 cases were registered for abetment of suicide (Sec.306 IPC); 33 cases were reported for immoral traffic (prevention) Act.

Four cases were also reported for offenses related to marriage.

The state recorded 613 cases of cybercrime against women.

A senior police officer told BM that most of the rape cases that are being reported are cases of elopement.

"Minors eloping with someone is considered rape and under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). Several such cases are coming to light," said the officer.

Innocence robbed: 708 cases of crime against children

Karnataka is seeing a rise in crime against children. The state recorded 708 cases of crime against children in January. According to the report by Karnataka State Police, the state recorded a total of 295 cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) in January. Additionally, 258 cases were reported in the corresponding month of the previous year, which increased by 14 percent in 2024.

In 2024, there were 374 reported cases of kidnapping and abduction involving children. Notably, there have been no reported cases of kidnapping for ransom. However, there was one reported case of the procurement of minor girls for other purposes. No instances of infanticide or foeticide were reported in January. One case was reported in December 2023. Five cases of exposure and abandonment were reported in January, compared to eight cases in the corresponding month of the previous year. Two cases were reported in December 2023.

Eight cases were reported under The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in January, a decrease from 12 cases reported in the corresponding month of the previous year; 11 cases were reported in the previous month. Moreover, nine cases were reported under the Juvenile Justice Act in the current month, a significant increase from one case reported in the corresponding month of the previous year. Eight cases were reported in the previous month.

The state also recorded 13 cases of child labour violations in January, compared to 11 cases reported in the previous month.

Waiting for metro? Do not cross the yellow line

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is planning to enhance its safety measures to ensure that incidents of commuters jumping onto the tracks do not occur. The move comes after a recent incident that took place at the Attiguppe Metro station, where a first year student from the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) jumped onto the tracks right before the train approached the metro station platform, leading to two coaches running over him.

The BMRCL has instructed its train operators to exercise caution before entering platforms. Along with this, station controllers have also been instructed to keep oversight of CCTV camera visuals, to spot those commuters appearing to be making an attempt to jump onto the tracks. On the other hand, security personnel who are deployed on platforms to man the crowd have been increased. Signages have also been installed across metro stations with an aim to educate commuters on the life-altering injuries one will experience if they fall onto the tracks. Regular announcements as well as surprise checks from higher authorities ensuring that the commuters stand behind the Yellow line on platforms are being conducted. **BMB**

Cafe blast: NIA arrests one key conspirator

In a major breakthrough in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key conspirator following massive raids across multiple locations in three states.

The key conspirator, identified as Muzammil Shareef, was arrested on Wednesday after he was picked up as a co-conspirator as the NIA teams cracked down at 18 locations, including 12 in Karnataka, five in Tamil Nadu and one in Uttar Pradesh. NIA, which took over the case on March 3, had earlier identified the main accused, Mussavir Shazeeb Hussain, who had carried out the blast. It had also identified another conspirator, Abdul Matheen Taha, who is also wanted by the agency in other cases. Both the men are on the run.

NIA investigations have revealed that Muzammil Shareef extended logistic support to the other two identified accused in the case, involving an IED explosion at the Cafe located at ITPL road on March 1.

The agency said "the raids were conducted today at the houses of all these three accused, as well as the residential premises and shops of other suspects."

During the raids, the NIA said various digital devices were seized during the searches, along with cash."Efforts are on to nab the absconding accused." **ANI**

BBMP's never-ending cycle: Broken pavement deja vu

Despite Palike's substantial investments in footpath improvement, recurring issues like broken pavers and garbage accumulation continue unabated in Hosur Road

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been spending a lot of money on improving and developing footpaths in the city. The civic body also invests a considerable amount to keep the city clean. However, the footpaths often return to their original state within one or two years after development, for reasons known best to the BBMP authorities. Garbage accumulation in certain locations remains a persistent problem.

For instance, the footpaths on both sides of Hosur Road between Christ University and Forum Mall were repaired approximately two years ago. It is disheartening to encounter broken pavers on the footpath near Christ University, while the footpath near Nireeksha Medicals poses a danger to pedestrians due to its uneven surface, especially for senior citizens.

Selwyn Mascarenhas, a pedestrian, expressed dismay, saying, "The footpath was developed two years ago by the BBMP at great expense. It is shocking to see its current condition. Pavers are missing or broken in some areas. I urge the BBMP authorities to address this issue."

Cleanliness on the footpath leaves much to be desired. Garbage can be observed dumped around trees, and construction materials clutter the footpath. "Footpaths are not being properly maintained. I believe pourakarmikas are not sweeping this area regularly," Mascarenhas added, noting that the road between Lakkasandra Bus Stop and Bangalore Milk Dairy has gone uncleaned for four days. Echoing similar sentiments, Abin, another pedestrian, pointed out that nearby shop owners and others dump garbage onto the footpath after pourakarmikas have swept it. "Unused construction material still litters the footpath. BBMP workers should clear debris and garbage promptly," he remarked.

Broken pavers on footpaths; Below: Garbage dumped recklessly on Hosur Road

> **"Unused construction material still litters the footpath. BBMP workers should clear debris and garbage promptly** – Abin, a pedestrian

In response to these concerns, the BBMP Executive Engineer (Major Roads) assured action, stating, "We have initiated measures to replace broken and damaged pavers on the footpath. I will ensure that broken and damaged pavers are promptly replaced with new ones."

The BBMP Junior Health Inspector (Solid Waste Management) acknowledged the issue of garbage dumping by shop owners and residents, pledging to take action. "I will instruct conservancy workers to sweep the road regularly and clear debris and garbage from the footpath," the inspector affirmed.

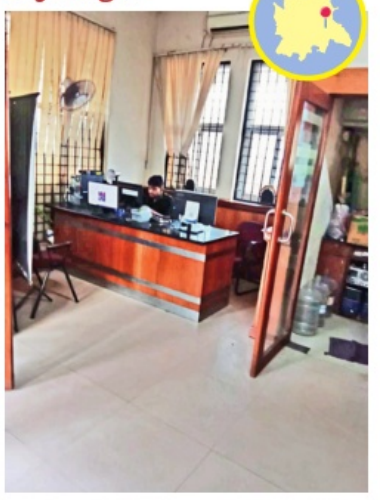
whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Wrong parking
Adugodi

High school buses from a private school are regularly parked on the footpath near the government school, causing congestion and hindering pedestrian movement. The school authorities are urged to take action on this matter.

Lacking amenities
Jayanagar


The Bangalore One office located at 38th Cross, 10th Main, 5th Block is in poor condition with no fan, lights, or drinking water available.

Case of missing bus shelter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shelter and not taking measures to compensate it, Vinay Srinivasa of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike said that it is BBMP's responsibility to construct a bus shelter at the junction without delay. "Lack of bus shelters will discourage people from commuting on BMTC buses. The BBMP west zonal officer, whose office is situated at a stone's throw away from the junction, should take measures to construct a bus shelter. I am of the opinion that the BBMP authorities are treating BMTC commuters as second class citizens. It will be helpful for the BMTC commuters if the BBMP authorities construct a bus shelter without delay,'' said Srinivasa. Narrating how difficult it is waiting for the BMTC buses under the scorching sun, Chandrasekhar N, a BMTC commuter, said the more the delay in BMTC bus arrivals the more difficult it shall be for the BMTC commuters to wait at this bus stop as it has no bus shelter.

"It may not cost much money for the BBMP to construct a bus shelter at this junction. The bus shelter will be useful for thousands of people who wait here to board BMTC buses. The BBMP authorities should have constructed the bus shelter much before the inauguration of the junction,'' said Chandrasekhar. The executive engineer at the BBMP's traffic engineering cell said that he would look into the matter.

Intent to marry notice 'steeped in patriarchy'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

'Hadiya judgment' held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21 of the Constitution and that matters of belief and faith, including whether to believe are at the core constitutional liberty. Further, it noted that in Lata Singh v. State of U.P. [(2006) 5 SCC 475], the Supreme Court directed the administration and police authorities throughout the country to ensure that "if any boy or girl who is a major undergoes inter-caste or inter-religious marriage with a woman or man who is a major, the couple are not harassed by any one nor subjected to threats or acts of violence, and any one who gives such threats or harasses or commits acts of violence either himself or at his instigation, is taken to task by instituting criminal proceedings by the police against such persons and further stern action is taken against such persons as provided by law."

While laying out other significant judgements by the apex court which recommend protection to intercaste and interfaith marriages, the association highlighted that the Supreme Court has noted the provisions of the Special Marriage Act which mandate a 30-day prior notice of intent to marry is steeped in patriarchy and exposes vulnerable

> **AILAJ presses for legal intervention to halt privacy violations in marriage notices**

couples to an "invasion" by the society, with an oral observation by the Chief Justice of India that "the very object of the Special Marriage Act is to protect couples but these provisions lay them open to invasion by society, by District Magistrates and Superin-tendents of Police." AILAJ requested the CM to explore legal means to prohibit the prevailing practice of uploading of 'notices of intended marriage' under Special Marriage Act. Along with this, it has requested for immediate steps to enact a law that would specifically cover the field of 'honour crimes' as directed by the Supreme Court in the case of Shakti Vahini vs. Union of India (UOI) and Ors. [AIR 2018 SC 1601)].

The letter is written in context to a recent incident where Mohan Gowda from the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti put out a tweet disclosing the identities of an interfaith couple who intend to get married under the Special Marriage Act, 1954. "This tweet seeks to demonise and incite violence against inter-faith marriages thereby constituting offences under the Indian Penal Code," the letter noted, while demanding criminal action against Gowda.

Cauvery stage V commissioning on track despite elections: BWSSB

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Despite election duties for Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers, Cauvery Stage V will be commissioned in May as a solution to the water crisis in Bengaluru. BWSSB has requested the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to exempt key engineers from election duties.

However, concerns have arisen about BWSSB's earlier commitment to commissioning Cauvery Stage V amidst the election season and officials being pulled for election duty. BWSSB, however, confirmed that election duty would not delay the project.

Speaking to BM, the Chairman of BWSSB, Ram Prasath Manohar V, said, "The election duty won't affect the project work. We are on track for the commissioning of Cauvery Stage V by May. A 2 km pipeline work between Harohalli and Vajarahalli is in progress, and we need to undertake some gap-closing works, and hydro testing is pending. We have requested BBMP

Pipes being laid on various parts of the city for the Cauvery Stage V project (file photo)

to exempt engineers from key departments such as technical sections and projects. We are hoping the exemption will be provided."

In a letter addressed to the BBMP Chief Commissioner issued on March 6, BWSSB had requested an exemption for 9 BWSSB engineers involved in the Cauvery Stage V works. BWSSB highlighted that the board is responsible for issuing uninterrupted water supply and ensuring the Cauvery Stage V works are on track, making the availability of these engineers vital. It also noted that elections being held during summer hold the possibility of a shortage of essential drinking water for Bengaluru city. According to a letter issued by BWSSB to BBMP on February 28, 76 engineers have been called for election duty. In response, in a letter issued on March 22, 2024, by BBMP, BWSSB engineers have been exempted from election duty and directed to be released within two days.

The project will ensure Cauvery water supply to the 110 villages added to BBMP and would reduce dependence on borewells.

As per the Cauvery Stage V project plan, a water treatment plant will be established at TK Halli. The project emanates from TK Halli, and a transition pipeline is laid; further, the pipeline extends to Vajarahalli, Eastern, and Western routes.

Brisk business for water tanker manufacturers

While water crisis worsens, manufacturers see surge in orders for water tankers

Water tankers supplying water to various buildings in the city amid water crisis (file photo)

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With severe water crisis, many are trying their luck in trying to exploit underground water. As a result, the demand for borewells has gone up and so have the prices for drilling borewells. An expert said, "The water scarcity issue in the city has reached a critical point, leading to severe changes in the cost and availability of borewell drilling services. As the demand for water sources increases, providers of borewell drilling services have capitalised on the situation by hiking their prices, resulting in financial strain for the public."

The cost of drilling a borewell per kitchen has surged to an alarming Rs 30 to Rs 40, a sharp increase from previous rates. This sudden spike in prices has come as a shock to many residents, especially considering the essential nature of water for daily life. The increased cost is attributed to various factors, including the growing scarcity of water sources, rising demand for drilling services, and logistical challenges faced by drilling companies.

Despite efforts to supply water from distant sources like the Kaveri River, the city continues to face a severe shortage of water. Reports from Jalmandali and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) reveal that nearly half of the existing borewells in areas like Superdi have dried up, exacerbating the water crisis. Additionally, many borewells drilled by the public for personal use are now without water, further highlighting the urgency of finding viable water sources.

In response to the escalating water scarcity, government agencies and private individuals have increased their drilling activities. BBMP and Jalmandali are actively drilling borewells in central and peripheral areas of the city to meet the rising demand for drinking water. This surge in drilling activities has led to a surge in demand for tubewell drilling machines, which has in turn driven up prices significantly.

Previously, the cost of borewell drilling was relatively affordable, with rates around Rs 75 per foot up to 250 feet. However, the current rates have skyrocketed to Rs 110 per foot, marking a substantial increase. This price escalation has put a strain on farmers and other residents who rely on borewells for water supply, as they now have to bear higher costs for accessing this essential resource.

Furthermore, lack of regulation on borehole drilling rates allows exploitation. Increased demand for drilling creates backlog, with residents waiting up to a month. Shortage of drilling machines worsens water scarcity, prolonging community suffering and inflating costs.

Bengaluru: Sahakar Nagar 8861814844; Basavanagudi 9448073200; Jayanagar 9900044811; Sarjapur Road 9900044811; Koramangala 9845037524; Chickpet 9035283456; Whitefield 7829808539/ 6363109173; Electronic City 9886033866; Kanakpura 9886033866; Kalyan Nagar 8861814844; Nyanappanahalli 9845538756/ 8884511498; Doddaballapur Road 9008302595/ 9739522976; Doddakallasandra 9606484234/ 8722204874; TC Palya 9844944662/ 9606484234; Nagasandra 8861814844; Bellandur 8861302456

3/2024-purplefocus

Innovative device to help visually impaired students

Final-year IIIT-B student secures patent for innovative solution: Finger mounted device

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A final-year iMTech student at IIIT-B, has accomplished a remarkable feat by obtaining a patent for a device that can help visually impaired students. The student, Mayank Kabra, has titled his innovation 'System and Method for Assisting Visually Impaired Individuals.'

Currently, many students are visually impaired and cannot continue their education with their other normal classmates in a school environment. Despite this, there are no solutions for this problem at present; either students have to buy a very expensive device and study separately or discontinue their education.

Like IIITB, there are many institutions and schools with more inclusive programmes for students, where there is a focus on teaching all types of students. But still, technological developments for the visually impaired students can enrich their learning experience at the same pace as the other students.

Kabra is currently doing his internship on ECE with a specialisation in Zurich. Revealing his innovation, he said that they had developed the technology of a finger-mounted device and a cost-effective solution for visually impaired students. The device operates through a combination of haptic technology, real-time digital board interaction, and tactile braille feedback. The sensor module captures live data from the classroom's digital board. "This device will be mounted on the fingers of visually impaired people where, in a live classroom, whenever the teacher starts writing on the digital board, the device will receive feedback from the cursor of the whiteboard and will guide the human hand to go to a virtual mapping of the pointer on a plan device using haptic technology. The writing will be converted into a text stream and sent through the microcontroller to the device. It has braille dots embedded where it makes you feel about the text written on the whiteboard. On the other hand, we can also retrace the outlines of the figures drawn on the board and receive feedback as the technology gives the sensation of the drawn figure on the finger," he said.

Talking about the inspiration behind the creation, he said, "The primary inspiration came from the challenges faced by the visually impaired students in accessing education on an equal footing with their sighted peers. The high cost of existing assistive technologies and the desire to integrate them fully into mainstream education settings drove the development of this innovative, cost-effective solution."

The haptic feedback system uses vibrational or motion-based feedback to guide the user's finger across a planar surface, mimicking the motion of the cursor on the board. While the braille display converts text written on the digital board into braille, allowing the user to read the text through touch.

There is a microcontroller that acts as the brain of the device, processing input from the digital board and controlling the haptic feedback and braille display mechanisms. A communication module ensures seamless wireless communication between the digital board and the finger-mounted device, facilitating real-time interaction.

> **"The high cost of existing assistive technologies and the desire to integrate them fully into mainstream education drove the development of this solution** –Mayank Kabra

Speaking about his mentor, Kabra said, "Mentorship can significantly influence a student's academic and research journey. Professor Madhav, with his expertise and experience, guided the conceptualisation and development of the device. His insights were invaluable in navigating the challenges of creating a new technology, especially one aimed at enhancing education for these students. His guidance and support for filing the patent were very helpful."

Move towards seamless power supply

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Usually, the summer months are troubled by power outages, and on certain occasions, they occur due to maintenance work as well. In fact, officials say that the maintenance of huge power transmission towers is a big challenge. A Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited official said, "In a bid to provide uninterrupted power supply to consumers and prevent shut-down of power lines during maintenance, KPTCL has decided to buy two Insulated Aerial Work Platform (AWP) vehicles for transmission lines and substations up to 400 KV voltage for Mysore and Gulbarga regions at an estimated cost of Rs 44 crores."

Officials said that KPTCL already has three such vehicles operating in Bengaluru, Chitradurga, and Hubballi. These vehicles will enable uninterrupted power supply to consumers, along with saving crores of rupees for the company.

Pankaj Kumar Pandey, managing director, KPTCL, said, "Traditional maintenance needs shutdown of the power line. Post-shutdown, the minimum time needed to restore power is five hours, thereby causing inconvenience to these consumers. With the Hot (Live) Line maintenance technique, KPTCL intends to carry out the maintenance activity without shutting down using state-of-the-art tools like insulated bucket vans, insulated buckets, and insulated scaffolding, thus not only ensuring the power supply to the consumers but also keeping the ESCOM's financial position intact."

KPTCL has also identified 10 personnel, and they have received professional training to operate and maintain the insulated aerial work platform vehicles at Somanahalli.

As part of ensuring the uninterrupted power supply, Pandey visited the 220 KV Nelamangala plant, inspected the Insulated AWP vehicle at work, and interacted with KPTCL personnel.

Lokayukta's chief engineer shunted out over 'pending cases'

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After just nine days on the job, Karnataka Lokayukta has finally taken appropriate action against TD Nanjundappa. Nanjundappa was appointed as the chief engineer of Karnataka Lokayukta on March 15, and he assumed office on March 18.

Ironically enough, neither the officials at Karnataka Lokayukta nor the Public Works Department were aware of the pending inquiry by Karnataka Lokayukta against Nanjundappa when he was the chief engineer of the Karnataka Housing Board.

On March 24, the Bangalore Mirror published a story titled 'Conflict over Lokayukta's newest appointee,' narrating how apprehensions mount over the chief engineer's appointment amidst an ongoing dereliction of duty probe. It has also explained how the members of the Bandemutt KHB Layout Residents' Welfare Association were shocked when they learned about Nanjundappa's appointment as Karnataka Lokayukta's chief engineer despite being accused in multiple cases. The shocking reaction is because of the probe by the Lokayukta against Nanjundappa based on a complaint lodged by them.

BangaloreMirror
Conflict over Lokayukta's newest appointee

BM's report on Mar 24 narrates conflict over the appointment of Nanjundappa

With the appointment of Nanjundappa attracting the media's attention, Karnataka Lokayukta Registrar sought an explanation from Nanjundappa and finally sent him back to his parent department, stating that he had failed to inform Lokayukta about three pending cases against him.

In a release dated March 26, Lokayukta Registrar stated, "The authorities did not consult us before appointing Nanjundappa as the chief engineer for Lokayukta, against whom three cases are pending. Upon noticing it, we then relieved Nanjundappa from the chief engineer post. We have also advised the authorities to appoint the chief engineer in consultation with the Lokayukta. I do not want to express any opinion on the three pending cases against Nanjundappa."

The Lokayukta Registrar has appointed the Lokayukta executive engineer as the chief engineer (in-charge) of Lokayukta until further orders.

Meanwhile, Bandemutt KHB Layout Residents' Welfare Association president Ramakrishne Gowda, who lodged a complaint with Karnataka Lokayukta against the now dismissed chief engineer Nanjundappa, has said that he welcomes Karnataka Lokayukta's decision to remove Nanjundappa from the chief engineer post after finding out the pending cases against him owing to dereliction of duties.

'No party leader would resign over this...'

DK Shivakumar amid rift in Karnataka congress over Kolar LS seat

DK Shivakumar with his brother DK Suresh during a public meeting ahead of Suresh's nomination filing, in Ramanagara

Amid drama in the Karnataka Congress over the Kolar Lok Sabha seat, Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Thursday said that there was no room for individual interest in the party, adding that all the party leaders would work towards victory in Kolar.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence here, Shivakumar said, "There is pressure from candidates for the ticket in Kolar. It will be discussed in a meeting with the Chief Minister. No one will resign from the Party over this," he said.

Touting the work done Congress MP DK Suresh in the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha Constituency, Shivakumar said, "When political leaders were scared of stepping out during Covid, Suresh visited hospitals in a PPE kit and enquired about the health of patients. It is all history now but he has risked his life to serve the people. He works like a Panchayat member every single day. He doesn't have to make special preparations during elections. We have people and party workers on our side,"

On contesting against the BJP and JDS in the upcoming elections, Shivakumar said that the Congress has a history of contesting against the Deve Gowda family.

Asked about taking on BJP and JDS in the Bengaluru Rural constituency, he said, "We have fought many elections against the Devegowda family. We have got a woman elected against Devegowda. I have faced Kumaraswamy in an election. Suresh had won an election against Anita Kumaraswamy, who was the joint candidate of BJP and JDS. We defeated Anita Kumaraswamy by a huge margin even when I was not a minister in the previous Siddaramaiah government. People have been supporting us ever since."

Replying to a query on BJP fielding Govind Karjol from Chitradurga, he said, "Let them field anyone, we have fielded Chandrappa. BJP has refused tickets to sitting MPs and ministers and it clearly shows that BJP has weakened in the State."

Asked about star campaigners from Congress, he said, "AICC President is from Karnataka itself. We have requested Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to visit Karnataka.

Considering they have to travel across the country for the campaign, we can't expect too many days in Karnataka," Shivakumar stated.

Karnataka, which has 28 Lok Sabha seats, will vote in two phases on April 26 and May 7.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress and JD-S fought together against the BJP and the combine was decimated.

The BJP had won a record 25 seats; Congress and JD-S won just one seat each. **-ANI**

Prajwal Revanna has assets worth Rs 40.85 cr

Prajwal Revanna, the lone JD(S) MP in Karnataka who has been renominated from Hassan Lok Sabha seat, has declared assets worth Rs 40.85 crore, which is a four-fold increase from 2019, according to his election affidavit.

The 34-year-old sitting MP has movable assets worth Rs 5.45 crore including deposits, investments, loans given to others and jewellery. He also has immovable assets worth Rs 35.84 crore, as per the affidavit.

In 2019 general elections, he had declared his total assets valued at Rs 9.78 crore.

Prajwal, who is the grandson of former PM Deve Gowda, has a liability of Rs 4.49 crore and government dues of Rs 3.04 crore. **-PTI**

As DK Suresh files nomination, steep assets rise noted

Incumbent MP DK Suresh, who was the only Congress candidate to win the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka, on Thursday filed his nomination from Bangalore Rural constituency for the April 26 polls.

The 57-year-old younger brother of Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar was accompanied among others by Ramanagara district in-charge Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Suresh defeated former MLA Anitha Kumaraswamy in the 2013 bypoll after her husband and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy resigned from Lok Sabha following his win in the Assembly polls that year, and was re-elected in the 2014 and 2019 general elections.

Asset rise

Meanwhile, Suresh has assets valued at Rs 593 crore, a 75 per cent increase in the last five years. Suresh had declared assets of Rs 339 crore before the 2019 general elections. He has Rs 16.61 crore in banks as deposits, according to an affidavit he submitted along with the nomination filed on Thursday. The MP has agriculture land at 21 locations worth Rs 32.76 crore, non-agriculture land at 27 places worth Rs 210.47 crore, nine commercial buildings worth Rs 211.91 crore and three residential buildings worth Rs 27.13 crore. He has liabilities of Rs 150.06 crore. **-PTI**

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Journalists' spat turns ugly

News agency reporter accused of assaulting female journalist

National Commission for Women member Khusbhu Sundar on Thursday condemned the physical and verbal abuse of a PTI female journalist by an ANI reporter in Bengaluru and demanded immediate action against him by his employer.

An FIR has also been registered by the PTI reporter against the ANI journalist in Bengaluru.

ANI editor Naveen Kapoor said in a post on X that the reporter has been suspended while the investigations are going on.

The incident happened at a press event of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and his MP-brother D K Suresh on Thursday.

The PTI reporter said that the ANI correspondent physically assaulted and abused her with sexual expletives. The incident was captured on camera and the ANI reporter was seen striking the young woman reporter twice on the face while he was pulled away by other journalists and people in the scrum.

Reacting to the incident, NCW member Khusbhu Sundar demanded action in the matter.

"I vehemently condemn the behaviour of the male journalist who is seen physically and verbally abusing the PTI female journalist in Bengaluru today. Want @smitaprakash to take action immediately," she said in a post on X.

Kapoor said in his X post that, "ANI does not in any manner condone or approve of violence by journalists in the field".

He claimed that the PTI post is "selective and seeks to suppress the first attack by the PTI journalist as per what our reporter tells us".

"Our reporter is also filing a First Information Report in relation to the unprovoked attack on him. We trust the legal process to take its course and disclose the complete facts," he said.

However, he said, "Till the investigation process is not completed, the ANI reporter has been suspended".

PTI stands by its report and denies that its reporter assaulted the ANI journalist. **PTI**

National Commission for Women member Khusbhu Sundar condemns attack, demands action against male journalist, who has now been suspended

KAUSHIK JN

Smoking hot

Thick smoke rising from burning waste and dry leaves blindsides commuters at Carmelaram Post, Sarjapur Road. Garbage burning has been a persistent issue in the city

NCLT declines to stay EGM called by Byju's to increase share capital

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Bengaluru Bench, on Thursday declined to grant a stay on the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on March 29 called by 'Think and Learn', owner of the Byju's brand.

The EGM was called to increase the authorised share capital of the embattled edtech firm, following the recent USD 200 million rights issue.

A group of four investors of Byju's has filed an oppression and mismanagement suit against the management of the company before the NCLT, Bangalore Bench, seeking to oust the founders, including CEO Byju Raveendran, and appoint a new board.

On Thursday, the Karnataka High Court said that it will deliberate on the case involving the investor group's efforts to oust Raveendran only after two months.

Besides, the suit filed by the group of investors also sought to declare the just-concluded rights issue as void.

The petition has been signed by four investors — Prosus, General Atlantic, Sofina, and Peak XV — along with support from other shareholders, including Tiger and Owl Ventures.

The tribunal had asked Byju's to consider extending the closing date of the USD 200 million rights issue, a request that the management hinted it would not accept, even as estranged investors flagged technicalities that prevented the closure of the issue on Wednesday.

In an interim order dated February 27, the NCLT said the funds received by the company through the rights issue should be kept in a separate escrow account and not withdrawn until the matter is disposed of. The miffed investors led by Prosus want to remove Raveendran and his family members from the board.

These investors, who hold around 32 per cent stake in the edtech firm, had called the EGM on February 23. **PTI**

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Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sakshi Wadhwa Bhasin w/o Jatin Bhasin residing at Vogue Residences, C-802, EPIP Zone, Road No 7, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066 have changed my name to Sakshi Wadhwa Bhasin from Sakshi Bhasin vide affidavit dated 28.03.2024 sworn before notary S.Subhashini, Bangalore

I, Heena Kousar .A R/a No.32, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, 22nd Main, JP Nagar, 5th Phase, Near Rizwan Masjid, Vinayaka nagar, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Heena Kouser, affidavit dt: 27.03.2024 Notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I, A. DAKSHAYINI, Residing at Asha Nursery and Garden, 5th Cross, 1st Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011, Have changed My name to A. DAKSHAYANI vide affidavit dated 28/03/2024 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Brijesh S/O, Bhaskaran Nambiar R/o House No 347, Ground Floor, Wheeler Road Extn, Opp Priyanka Pharmacy, St. Thomas Town, Cooke Town, have changed my name to Brijesh Nambiar.

I, Sowmya Venkatesh W/o Veekshak.K.Y R/o #72, Annapurneshwari Nilaya, 1st Main,14th Cross, M T S Layout K S Town, B'luru 560070,have changed my name to Soumya Venkatesh For All Purposes.

I, Kaustabh Tusharkanti Chakraborty S/o, Tusharkanti Chakraborty R/o F2-146, 1st Floor, Chinar Glades, 4th Main, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore -38 have changed my name to Kaustabh Chakraborty for all purposes

I Shahinasha Allam S/O, Mohammed Younus R/o No 7, 1st Main, Bowee Street, Bazaar Street, Ulsoor, Bengaluru 560008 have changed my name to Shahinsha Alam.

I Kishore R S/O, M Raja R/o No 385, 20th Cross, 3rd Main Road, Ravindranagar, T Dasarahalli Bangalore 560057. have changed my name to Kishore Kumar.

I, Sushma Hammannavar R/a No 117/2, Hongiranna, Mahant Nagar, 3rd Cross, Near Shankarlingeshwara Temple, Kelgeri Road, Dharwad 580001. I Have changed my name to Sushma Babu Hammannavar. Vide affidavit dated 26-03-24 sworn before notary V. Anjanappa B'lore.

I, Hasina R/a No.1/42-43, 1st Main, 1st Cross, New Gurappa napalya, Bengaluru-560029 have changed my name to Haseena, affidavit dt: 27.03.2024 Notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I Mohamed Suhaib S/o Zabiulla R/o No 38 Near Noorani Mazid Khazi Mohalla Chikanayakanhalli Tumkur 572214 have changed my Name To Mohammed Suhaib.

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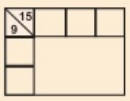
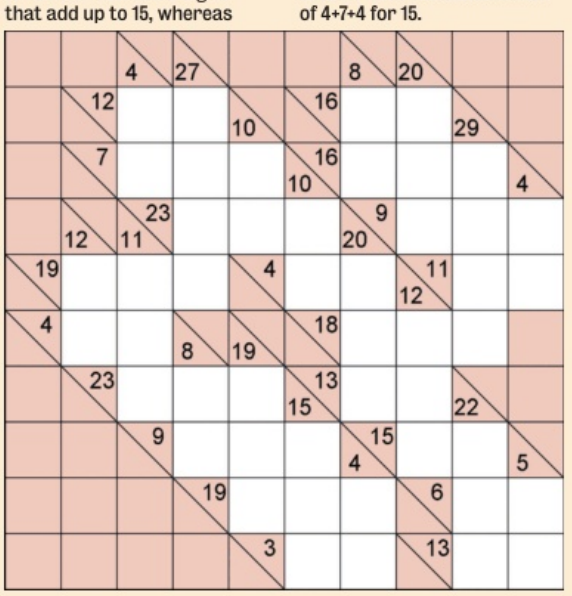
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

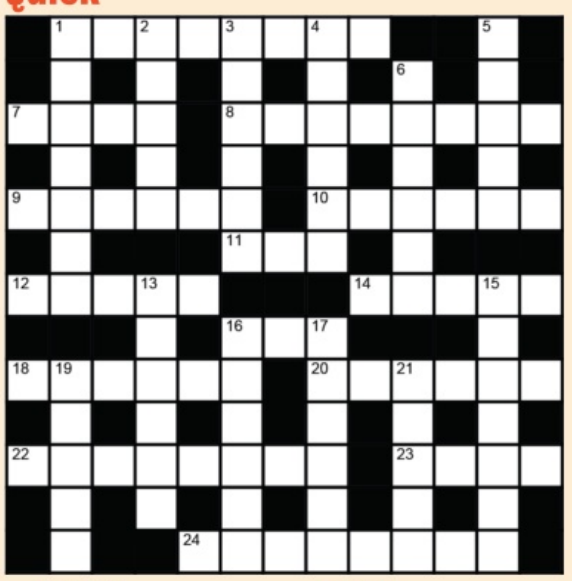


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 German shepherd (8)
7 Able was I, ___ ___ saw Elba? (3,1)
8 Bring water to land (8)
9 Hindered, thwarted or foiled (6)
10 With hands on hips (6)
11 Ability to recognise and reproduce music (3)
12 Lawn (5)
14 Verity (5)
16 Nabokov novel (3)
18 Nearly (6)
20 Autobiography (6)
22 Depicts (8)
23 Leather stick (4)
24 Festive occasion (5-3)

DOWN

1 Guru Dutt's 1954 production (3,4)
2 Small cut (5)
3 An electronic valve - "editor" anagram? (6)
4 An unpaid and overdue debt (6)
5 Delhi's ___ Minar (5)
6 More ungainly to look at (6)
13 Yells, utters loudly (6)
15 One of two metro stations in the Ulsoor area (7)
16 Military command (2,4)
17 Keeps entertained (6)
19 Not fixed or tight (5)
21 Cut grass (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS U

FDLLHTQXX BZUQT XTQDSX HT UFPBAVF D WBBP EBA WHWT'U STBG EBA JQZU BLQT.

Linemaro

You are like a candy bar. Half sweet and half nuts

Mindchow

When you take things for granted, the things you are granted get taken

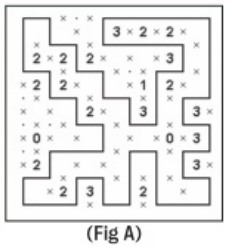
Joke of the day

I grew up in a very large family in a very small house; I never slept alone until after I was married

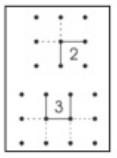
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

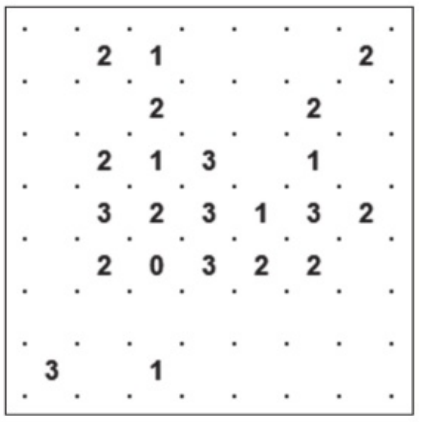


(Fig B) Not Allowed

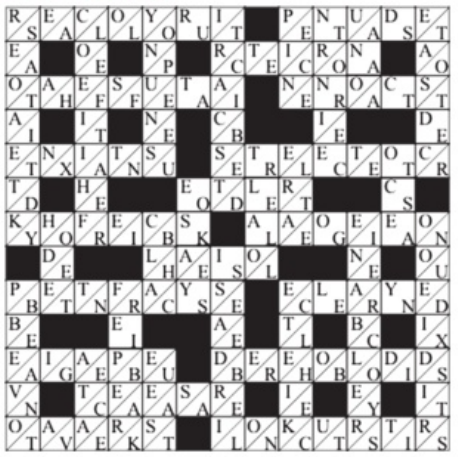
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



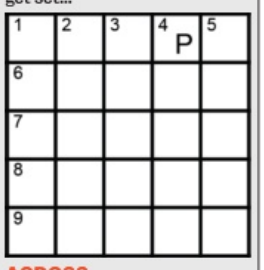
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 PTA ad; 6 Be Lou;
7 Bruin; 8 A smog;
9 Sheet

DOWN

1 Bob at; 2 Hug do;
3 A urea; 4 Limps;
5 Teens

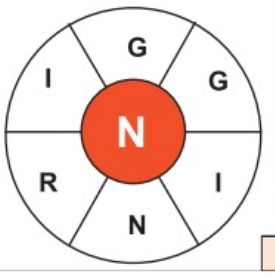
Mensapuzzle

The right set of six numbers has a relationship to the set of six numbers below. The two sets of six boxes on the left have the same relationship as the two sets of six boxes on the right. Which set of numbers should therefore replace the question marks?

12	3	7	8	10	18		4	11	2	5	6	13
6	6	14	4	5	9		?	?	?	?	?	?

A	8	6	4	10	3	22
B	2	22	1	10	3	26
C	8	22	4	8	12	5
D	2	5	6	13	11	4
E	6	6	1	10	12	26

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

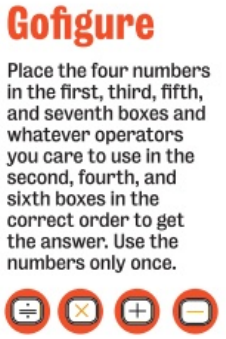
SudokuChallenge

4			2		6			8
	8						2	
		3	4		7	5		
	4			3			7	
3		1				4		6
	2			5			8	
		6	9		5	3		
	3						6	
9			3		2			1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



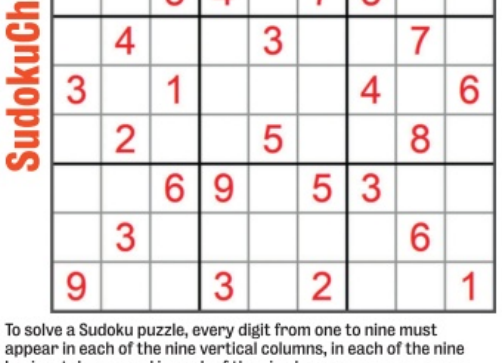
Easy = 13
1 2 3 9

Medium = 9
2 5 5 6

Hard = 16
1 3 6 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



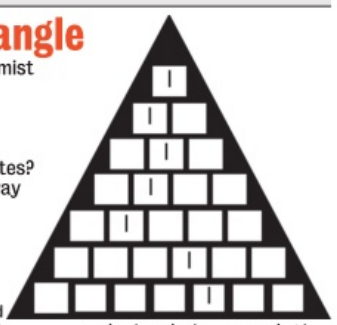
Differences: 1. Bag is larger. 2. Collar is different. 3. Window is different. 4. Patch on sleeve is different. 5. Apron is missing. 6. Shutter is missing.

Riddler

Crack the code to find three shapes: ZNELRZY, ECTLYRWP, ECLAPKTFX. Code is sequential i.e. if you think A = G then it will follow that B = H, C = I, and so on

Alpha triangle

1 Iodine for the chemist
2 Less more
3 Take a chair
4 Neckwear
5 Eats to a plan
6 Resigns or abdicates?
7 Frustrated, in a way

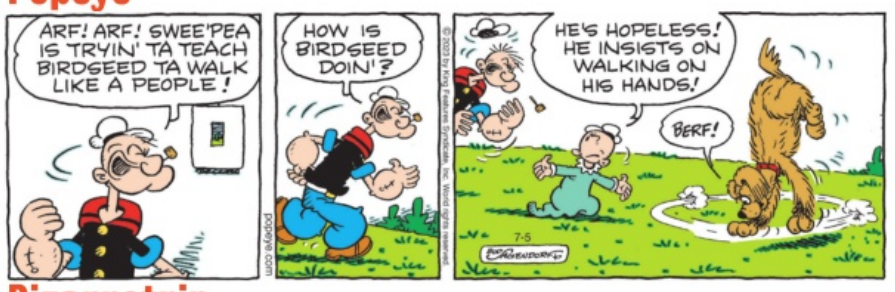


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


ARF! ARF! SWEE'PEA IS TRYIN' TA TEACH BIRDSEED TA WALK LIKE A PEOPLE!
HOW IS BIRDSEED DOIN'?
HE'S HOPELESS! HE INSISTS ON WALKING ON HIS HANDS!
BERF!

Bizarrotrip

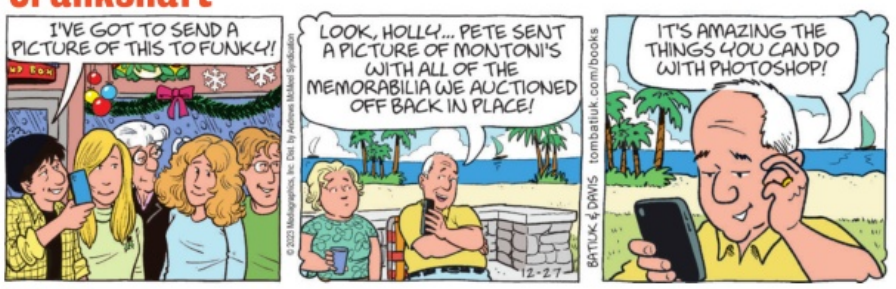
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS
A dandelion on your grounds? Remain calm, a squad car is on the way.
GATED COMMUNITY 911

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

IN THE END, WE ALL HAD TO RETAKE THE MATH TEST.
AND, HONESTLY, I DIDN'T DO TOO BAD! I PASSED WITH A 78%!
BUT THAT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL BE TEMPTED TO CHEAT ON A TEST.
AUTHOR'S NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE LAST TIME.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


I'VE GOT TO SEND A PICTURE OF THIS TO FUNKY!
LOOK, HOLLY... PETE SENT A PICTURE OF MONTONI'S WITH ALL OF THE MEMORABILIA WE AUCTIONED OFF BACK IN PLACE!
IT'S AMAZING THE THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH PHOTOSHOP!
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS
12-27

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may spend money on your family issues, which could affect your financial health. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things and to think twice before acting. It is recommended to control your straightforwardness to maintain harmony in both your domestic and professional life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your performance may be very good in terms of your profession, with full support from your boss or seniors. You may expect new opportunities and job seekers may find suitable jobs. Singles may find love at their workplace.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may perform well at your job with cooperation from colleagues, completing postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment and receive positive news regarding old health issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day for you. You may have a positive environment around you after hearing some good news from siblings. Job seekers may find a good job. Spiritual energy may help you make the right decisions, and your focus on your goals will be clear. Students may have good focus in their studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today your destiny may be with you, allowing you to manage things easily and boosting your confidence. You may plan to visit spiritual places or donate to religious activities or charity. Expect a short business trip and blessings from elders, bringing peace of mind. Lovebirds may receive help from family members regarding marriage.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, situations may improve, and people around you may respond positively. Avoid seeing life as a burden and try to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. Blessings from elders may help you overcome difficulties, and confusion in choosing targets may dissipate.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel dull and unhealthy, finding yourself at a crossroads. It is advised to follow your intuition before making important decisions and to drive safely, avoiding adventure tourism. You may criticize yourself and find it difficult to make important decisions due to a lack of self-confidence, affecting your social image.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dull and have some minor health issues affecting your daily routine. Self-exploration may help identify negativity, and you may feel isolated in a crowd. With the help of elders, you may overcome this situation by the late evening.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today tasks may remain incomplete, and mood swings could test your patience. Silly mistakes may confuse your work conclusion, and lovebirds may feel confused about their feelings. High expectations may affect emotional attachments with your spouse, and care for parents is advised. Students may experience a loss of concentration.

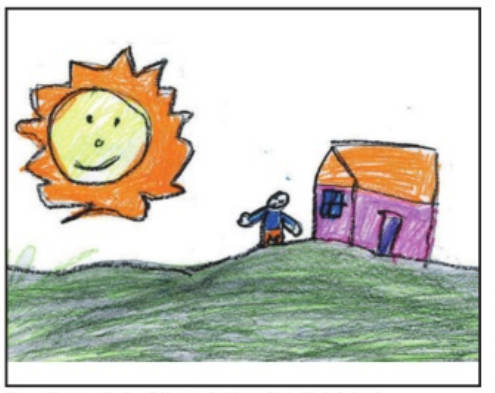
Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is important in terms of gains. You may achieve results with less effort, turning losses into profits with your intelligence. You may plan to pursue academics or make donations to religious places or charity. Investing in intellectual assets may be possible, and students may perform well.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may receive profitable business orders and implement new ideas in your work. New partnerships may arise, keeping you busy and mentally tired, affecting your domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, with the help of your subordinate staff, you may complete postponed projects. Your network may expand, benefiting your work or social life. Planning outings with friends or siblings and resolving disputes with neighbours are likely. Students are advised to overcome laziness and carelessness.

KIDZONE

Harini V, 8 Years, National Public School



Niyati Kumari Kedia, 5 Years, Baldwin Girls High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
8 x 3 ÷ 4/64/(12)
8 x 3 ÷ 4/72
8 x 3 ÷ 1/3
8 x 3 ÷ 3/1
24 x 3/1
72

BULL'S EYE
grin, ring, RINGING

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
8: all the even numbers are divided by 2 and all the odd numbers are multiplied by 2.

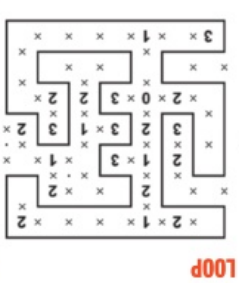
QUOTE UNCODE
Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open.

SUDOKU

4	9	5	2	1	6	7	3	8
1	8	7	5	9	3	6	2	4
2	6	3	4	8	7	5	1	9
6	4	8	1	3	9	2	7	5
7	2	9	6	5	4	1	8	3
3	5	1	7	2	8	4	9	6
5	3	2	8	4	1	9	6	7
8	1	6	9	7	5	3	4	2
9	7	4	3	6	2	8	5	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, Is, Sit, Ties, Diets, Demits, Stymied.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 3 - 1 + 9 = 13
Medium
5 - 2 x 5 - 6 = 9
Hard
3 x 6 x 1 - 2 = 16

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

T	H	E	S	E
O	G	A	M	S
B	U	R	I	N
B	O	U	L	E
A	D	A	P	T

RIDDLER
Octagon, triangle, trapezium
(A becomes P, B becomes Q, etc.)

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Yuva is full of family values, action, love, emotion

Producer Vijay Kiragandur, known for bankrolling big-budget movies, is gearing up for the release of Yuva, the most awaited movie in Sandalwood. TYuva is produced by Kiragandur under the Hombale Films banner. The movie is being screened at 400 screens across Karnataka and with a minimum number of screens in neighbouring states including North India.

The team involved in Yuva said the film caters to the needs of all audiences – family, mass and class audiences.

"At present, relationships and family values are diminishing in society. The movie Yuva is worth a watch because it is about those family values, with action, entertainment, emotions and a father-son relationship," said Kirangadur.

Yuva Rajkumar aka Guru Rajkumar makes debut as a hero in Sandalwood with the movie. Majority of movie-goers, especially those who have attachment with Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar's family, have high hopes on the movie because Dr Rajkumar's grandson Yuva Rajkumar is being launched as a hero.

Kirangadur said that he has given utmost importance to production values and the scale of the movie is at par with other movies bankrolled under the Hombale Films banner.

"We are launching an actor from the family of Dr Rajkumar legacy. So we have not compromised in any department. The movie has mass elements along with family entertainment and emotions," said Kirangadur.

The movie is helmed by Santosh Ananddram. Kantara fame Sapthami Gowda is paired opposite Yuva Rajkumar in Yuva. Achyuth Kumar and Sudha Rani are playing Yuva Rajkumar's parents, Hitha Chandrasekhar plays his sister.

For posterity

Actress Kristen Stewart and her screenwriter fiancee Dylan Meyer, who got engaged in 2021, are looking at options for having children together in the future and for that the two have even got their "eggs frozen".

Stewart said: "We've done really annoying things like freeze our eggs and stuff. So if we want to, we can."

The couple are in no rush to tie the knot and just have a "loose" plan for their wedding. "We're both, like, really casual people, and so we did this sweeping, traditional thing where we were like, 'Marry me! You marry me!'," the 33-year-old actress told the 'Not Skinny But Not Fat' podcast. —IANS

For artisans

Actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal have been working together as producers on many projects and now the duo has taken an initiative to promote the creative work of local artisans.

The couple has decided to launch a homegrown fashion label that focuses on local craftspeople.

While expressing her excitement about the initiative, Richa said, "We have both always strived to work at a grassroot community level with whatever we do. We have always wanted to sport local communities, our social endeavours too always are something we strive to do from a grassroots legal up."

Richa and Ali are planning to revitalise Lucknow's community of artists to preserve the art. "So when the idea struck us to want to do something for the artisans, especially those in Lucknow who have years and years of art they have been practising, we wanted the label to be a reflection of that," she said. —ANI

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